

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H3568**
(Doc. No.)

TO:	The Honorable		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Kate Billing, Tricia Tangney		
DATE:	January 19, 2006	SBD:	2005396
<hr/>			
AUTHOR:	Representative Rice	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	
SUBJECT:	Abolishes Commission for the Blind and Establishes Division of Blind Services at Vocational Rehabilitation		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:
A Cost to the General Fund

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:
\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

FIRST YEAR GENERAL FUNDS: \$495,042
FIRST YEAR FEDERAL AND/OR OTHER FUNDS: \$
ANNUAL TOTAL THEREAFTER: \$45,000

Itemization of Additional Cost for First Year

	RECURRING		NON-RECURRING	
	General	Federal/Other	General	Federal/Other
Personal Service & Employer Contributions	(\$195,000)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
FTE's	(5.0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
Operating Costs	(\$105,000)	0	\$795,042	0
Other:	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	(\$300,000)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$795,042

BILL SUMMARY:

Enactment of this bill would abolish the Commission for the Blind and establish a Division of Blind Services within the Vocational Rehabilitation Department to carry out the duties outlined in Chapter 25, Title 43 of the South Carolina Code of Law.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Commission for the Blind

The Commission for the Blind reports a savings of \$345,000 in General Funds. This is based on the assumption that the administration of the Commission for the Blind will be merged with Vocational Rehabilitation; the methodology applied was an estimate of the job functions and administrative functions that could be eliminated.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation reports a cost of \$795,042 in non-recurring General Funds, and \$45,000 in recurring General Funds. The costs listed represent the start up costs to the SCVR Department necessary to handle the administrative activities required by this bill. Funding for the on-going costs of providing these administrative services will be transferred from the budget of the Commission for the Blind to the SC

Vocational Rehabilitation Department. For an effective and efficient consolidation the assumption was made that a complete data network would have to be established. This network would link all of the Commission's offices and a central location. This LAN/WAN configuration is based on 150 users and includes 30 specialty computers equipped with necessary software and hardware to be ADA compliant. Estimates also include other office conversions (Braille touch pads for copiers and phones, office ergonomics, etc. that would be necessary to be fully accessible.

The Administrative Law Judge Division

The Administrative Law Judge Division reports this Bill will have no impact on the General Fund of the State, or on Federal and/or Other Funds, as there have been no requests for appeals from decisions of Commission for the Blind's hearing officers for the past five years.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Addy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don Addy
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget